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p. 84

Tom Treanor



Back in April of 1942, Tom Treanor was making a tour of the nation's war plants to gather information for use in his column, *The Home Front*, in the Los Angeles *Times*. Suddenly he got an idea and wired his boss. "If I can bum a ride on an Army bomber to Africa will you pay my living expenses as a foreign correspondent?" his wire read.

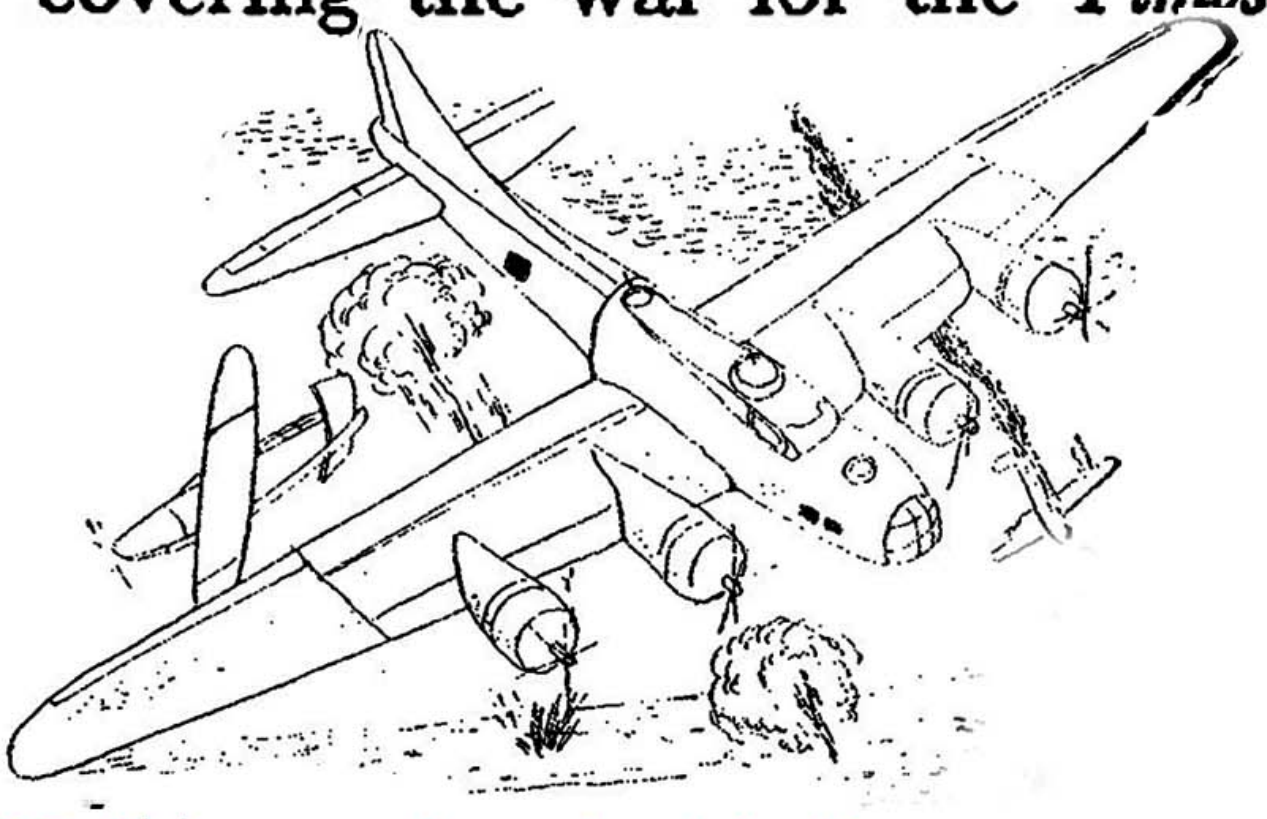
The *Times* not only agreed to pay his expenses—they wired 15 hundred dollars, 12 hundred and 50 of which their wandering reporter used for a Pan American Airways ticket.

Landing in Cairo just about the time Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was approaching Alexandria, Treanor went to the British to obtain an accreditation certificate as a war correspondent. But since the British didn't know him they wouldn't accredit him.

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Undaunted, he went out and bought a set of correspondents' insignia for 70 cents, borrowed an Army truck, and made a trip to the front and back before the British realized he was gone. They stripped him of his illegal insignia, but in the meantime Tom had obtained material for several "hot" columns. Next he dropped in on a RAF base in the rear areas and talked himself into a free ride to Malta and Gibraltar. On the return trip he witnessed the bombing of Navarino Bay. When the British discovered that the American vagabond was in the front line for a third time—this time at El Alamein—they complained to the U. S. Army and it wasn't long until Treanor's editors recalled him.

The first plane out was to India so Tom took it, and in the land of the maharajas he was finally accredited. Then, with the blessings of the British government, he saw jungle fighting, interviewed Indian leaders, flew in bombing raids over Burma, and finally ended up in Chungking where he is still covering the war for the *Times*.



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